

1. (currently amended) A method for identifying an electrode type in an automatic external defibrillator comprising the steps of:

providing on an automatic external defibrillator electrode package which includes an electrical connector for coupling an electrode to the defibrillator a shaped conductive label having a conductive path that uniquely identifies a type of electrode contained therein;

coupling the electrode electrical connector to an electrode connector of the defibrillator; and

coupling one or more ~~pins-conductors~~ to the shaped conductive label when the automatic external defibrillator electrode package is coupled to the defibrillator.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

sensing a shape of the shaped conductive label with the one or more ~~pins-conductors~~ to ascertain the type of electrode contained therein.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

selecting an operating mode for the automatic external defibrillator based on the shape of the shaped conductive label.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein said sensing step further comprises redundantly sensing two or more portions of said shape of the shaped conductive label with two or more ~~pins-conductors~~ to ascertain the type of electrode contained therein.

5. (currently amended) An electrode package ~~(10, 20, 30)~~ for an automatic external defibrillator comprising:

a cartridge for containing one or more electrodes of a particular type; and

a shaped conductive label disposed on the cartridge, said shaped conductive label uniquely identifying the particular type of electrode contained therein via the shape of said shaped label.

6. (previously presented) An automatic external defibrillator comprising:

one or more electrode cartridges, each containing one or more electrodes of a particular type; and

one or more shaped conductive labels, each disposed on one of the one or more electrode cartridges, each of said one or more shaped conductive labels uniquely identifying a particular type of electrode contained therein based on the shape of said shaped label.

7. (currently amended) The automatic external defibrillator ~~(55)~~ according to claim 6, further comprising:  
an electrode cartridge receptacle to accept each of the one or more electrode cartridges, said electrode cartridge receptacle including one or more sensing pins to couple in a unique pattern to the one or more shaped conductive labels when each of the one or more electrode cartridges is inserted into the electrode cartridge receptacle.

8. (previously presented) The automatic external defibrillator according to claim 7, wherein said sensing pins are disposed to couple in a unique pattern to two or more portions of each of said shaped conductive labels to redundantly identify said particular type of electrode.

9. (currently amended) The automatic external defibrillator ~~(55)~~ according to claim 7, further comprising:  
a processor establishing a mode of operation of the automatic external defibrillator based on the particular one of the one or more shaped conductive labels sensed by the one or more sensing pins.

10. (previously presented) The automatic external defibrillator according to claim 7, wherein each of the one or more sensing pins comprises a spring-loaded pin to maintain said each sensing pin in electrical contact with the one or more shaped conductive labels when each of the one or more electrode cartridges is inserted into the electrode cartridge receptacle.

11. (previously presented) The automatic external defibrillator according to claim 7, wherein each of the one or more shaped conductive labels comprises a gold-plated metal.

12. (previously presented) The automatic external defibrillator according to claim 9, wherein each of the one or more shaped conductive labels comprises a unique shape.

13. (previously presented) The automatic external defibrillator according to claim 12, wherein the one or more sensing pins sense the unique shape of the one or more shaped conductive labels when each of the one or more electrode cartridges is inserted into the electrode cartridge receptacle.

14. (previously presented) The automatic external defibrillator according to claim 13, wherein the processor establishes a mode of operation of the automatic external defibrillator based on the sensed shape of the conductive label.

15. (previously presented) The automatic external defibrillator according to claim 7, wherein each of the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridges includes two contacts for electrically connecting patient electrodes to the automatic external defibrillator and the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridge receptacle includes two contacts for electrically connecting the automatic external defibrillator to the two contacts on each of the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridges, and said two contacts on the automatic external defibrillator electrode cartridge receptacle are different than said one or more sensing pins.

16. (previously presented) A method for identifying an electrode type in an automatic external defibrillator comprising the steps of:

providing a first conductive label on a first type of an automatic external defibrillator electrode package, said first conductive label having a first shape that uniquely identifies a type of electrode contained therein; and

providing a second conductive label on a second type of an automatic external defibrillator electrode package, said second conductive label having a second shape that uniquely identifies a type of electrode contained therein.

17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:

coupling ~~62~~ one or more pins to the first or second conductive label when the automatic external defibrillator electrode package on which the first or second conductive label, respectively, is disposed is coupled to the defibrillator.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the one or more pins comprise one or more spring-loaded pins.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of:

sensing a shape of the shaped conductive label with the one or more pins to ascertain a type of electrode contained therein.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of:

selecting an operating mode for the automatic external defibrillator based on the shape of the first and second shaped conductive labels.